

Do not let the Bell "Wolves" own the chicken coop you already allow them to dominate. Competition requires competitors to be alive. If the FCC lifts the dominant classification from the Local Exchange Carriers (Bells), it will limit competition to a duopoly consisting of a bell and a cable company. Competition in the American Telecom marketplace will not be incentivized, it will be torpedoed. ISPs and CLECs will die, consumers will be deprived of choice and the FCC will be wholly to blame for the travesty. DO NOT DO IT. Chairman Powell: Please do not favor large providers, that have historically ignored the needs of rural areas, at the expense of competition and the small businesses of our country.

Internet access is essential to economic growth in rural areas. The proposed FCC actions would reduce competition, innovation, and thus access in Southwest Virginia. I have written to Rep. Rick Boucher, Member of Congress and a member of the Energy and Commerce subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet explaining that the proposed actions will reduce Internet access and economic growth in his district.